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immediate. 25

General, ably re-

**THE RAINFALL.**

The fertilising showers which have fallen since Saturday have come as a relief to the city. The sweltering heat of the preceding days has disappeared, and more refreshing conditions have supervened. City dwellers at all points are not sorry for the visitation, although our reports this morning show, some of the low-lying districts will have unpleasant cause to remember it. With derelict houses and blocked lanes in the eastern suburbs and at George-street West, flooded streets, Bay-street and Parramatta-road, and much of the rest of the harbour area, it is not too much to say that the welcome change of weather is not without its inconveniences. At every cultivator of a suburban garden, every householder whose drainage required flushing, and all who felt the inconvenience of the past week's heat, will find reason to be thankful. The weather reports available show that the country was favoured in many places by the downpour, and from places like Wangungah on the south coast, Gundagai and so on in the southern inland district, and others, there are most cheering reports. The farmers in these places are rejoicing for the rain has just come at the time when it was most required. At Gundagai, for example, growers say that a few more days of wet weather would have rendered the crops practically perfect. Progressive farmers are saying the drenching fall will hail their heavy showers with special satisfaction, because rain has been anxiously expected by them for some time. Looking at our weather report, even up to 9 on Saturday, it will be seen that he monsoonal rains had begun to be felt out at Bourke, though up to then only in slight quantity. The meteorological forecasts for this morning, in view of the further information in this evening's telegrams, hope may be indulged that most of the country will participate more or less in this welcome rain.

**The Situation in Japan.**—We publish today articles from our special correspondents at Tokyo dealing with constitutional questions in Japan.

**The Postal Conference.**—Since the opening of the postal department program, the meeting of the General Post Office, the delegates have been busily engaged upon the draft of a Uniform Postage and Telegraph Bill for the Commonwealth, and have made very good progress. In connection with the drafting of the bill, they will proceed with the framing of regulations, the consideration of rates of postage, and other subjects, to which the Commonwealth-General (Mr. Crick) referred while speaking the conference on Thursday last.

**Postal Reform.**—The Postmaster-General (Mr. Drake) has received the following cable from the Commonwealth-General (Mr. Crick), regarding the telegram reform proposed by your advocate of dispatch telegrams and penny postage. The dispatch telegram reform here turned out a magnificent success. The savings by about 60 per cent, and the revenue by 16 per cent.

**Eastern Suburbs Railway Extension.**—With a view to promoting the extension of the railway to the eastern suburbs, a joint committee comprising representatives of the eastern suburbs chambers arranged to be held at the Waverley Committee-chambers on Wednesday evening last. It is understood that the committee for now adjourned until the end of October, and Waverley, and Randwick electricities will be present.

**The Commonwealth Agricultural Show.**—The sub-committees appointed by the Agricultural Society are now engaged in the preparation of the preliminary schedule for the Commonwealth Show, to be held from April 3 to 10, 1901. In an advertisement which appears elsewhere the council of the society invites persons to send suggestions, recommendations, alterations or additions to the schedule to communicate with the secretary as soon as possible.

**Oriental Park Entrance.**—Mr. John Graham, M.L.A., is in receipt of communication from the secretary to the various Committees intimating that the Commissioners have forwarded to the Minister for Works their consent to give up possession of the land at Moore Park-road and Oxford-street, adjoining the train waiting-room, and opposite the Queen-street entrance gate to the Oriental Park, for the purpose of allowing the construction of a large fountain to be used as a walk. In this connection, which is the result of a deputation from the Woollahra Municipal Council to the

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To build up a good constitution and give your complexion drink Nicholls' Dentition Ale.—Advertisement

**FATAL GUNPOWDER**

## EXPLOSION.

### A WOMAN KILLED.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.  
A regular gaspolder explosion occurred at Bundoora Saturday in a house occupied by Charles Hoff, on the Watsons-road, which in the early was used as a police barracks. In the kitchen two women, an ordinary colonial oven, set in a stone, and a square brick wall beside the fireplace. The latter had not been used since 1860. On Saturday morning, however, Mrs. Hoff lit a fire under it, and commenced kneading dough on the opposite side of the room beside a

new husband, Louis Thomsen, a 20 1/2 years younger man, was not able to give his wife any milk for some milk, and during his absence an arson occurred, and was heard half a mile off. The woman was found by her grandmother, who was 71 years of age, lying beside the door with her hand on the veranda and her feet in the snow. She was dead, and her head was bleeding profusely from a cut on the forehead. The door was blown off its hinges and buried at the eash of the window near the table where the woman had been reading the drench. A few feet further along five weatherboards were blown off and the woman was found lying in a pool of blood and ice against which Mrs. Trompsen had been knocked down by concussion was covered with her blood and hair. The oven door

led from the couch on to a chair near the door.  
 Mrs. Trompff was found. She never re-  
 covered consciousness and died at 8 o'clock at night.  
 The body was picked up and was hanging from a soap  
 suds over the left ear, and also from the mouth,  
 and nose. She was also bruised about the head  
 and neck, and her skull was fractured. The police  
 found the remnants of a gaspuffer flask between  
 her arms on the couch. This evidently contained  
 gas, and the fire must have exploded it. It is  
 uncertain how the gaspuffer came to be in the  
 room.

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## INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

The industrial competitive exhibition which was

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**Pinner.** Drawing; Fine Sawdust. Toys: Clock  
for. Ringing Hoops. Wood: 1. Varnish  
2. Spelling box. Minnie Ljung, 1; Maud  
2. Nail driving: Gertrude Nicolson, 1; Miss  
Therese, 2. Wood sawing: Marthe Quirch, 1; Miss  
Therese, 2. Sewing: Margaret Smith, 1; Miss  
Therese, 2. Paper: Lillemor Olsson. Book polishing:  
Lillemor Olsson. Needlework: Catherine Smith, 1;  
Margaret Smith, 2. Toy making: Bertha Bubb,  
Sandra. Baby's dress: Bertha Bubb, Sampler: Stella  
Leather leggings: Arthur Smith. Model-  
ling: Gordon Fairhall. Darning net: Mrs. Alfred.  
Knitting: Mrs. Alfred. Wool band and petticoat: Frands  
Nielsen. Wood jacket: Miss Therese. Throat  
tie: Miss Therese. Gentlemen dressing doll: Percy  
J. McJ. Newnam, 7.

The last general meeting for the academic year of the above association was held on November 10, 1933, at the acting president's occupied chair. The proceedings were opened with an impromptu debate by members of the third-year arts. Misses Grace Bruce and M. K. Jarrett placed motions before the meeting in regard to alterations in the constitution. An amendment, Miss Burton's motion, was carried, to wit: "That second year pre-jurisdiction be restricted to representatives from the men's College," some minor alterations for proper working of the constitution being effected. The election of officers for the academic

Miss I. Henry, Miss D. Murray Prior, vice-presidents; Miss E. Fullerton, secretary; Miss M. Cole, treasurer.

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## THE TRAMWAY MEN AND RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

—The proceedings at the recent meetings of the tramway men, reported in your columns, afford food for serious reflection. That the tramway men are generally of a high standard of character and ability is scarcely open to question, and it left to myself I have sufficient faith in their good sense here that their association might be productive

and having regard to the circumstances surrounding its initiation, one may well be suspicious of the motives of the Government in proceeding thus. The Minister for Public Works said at his time to cast a sneer at the "clerical class" for not having "come enough to organize themselves into unions and insist on getting better conditions than they were accorded."

It is not surprising, therefore, that the "clericals" in the railway service and as one of I say that Mr. O'Sullivan levels an unwarranted insult at us. It may possibly come as a surprise to us to learn that many of the duped clerical think for themselves instead of delegating that duty to the people and the rest of the staff. It is surprising to us to find that the "duped" of clerical and capital is much less objection-

that the tyranny of unionism as carried out in  
Further, I am one of those who are satis-  
fied that the provision of the Railway Act affords  
the protection to the staff that is likely to  
be from the interference of a trade union. It  
be individual cases of dissatisfaction, but dis-  
satisfaction is not necessarily due to a bona fide  
dispute, and notwithstanding what labour agitators  
may say, I contend that the Railway  
provides a far better tribunal for  
the settlement of grievances of the staff  
any other which has been proposed. There  
plenty of members of the railway clerical  
who feel that promotion is dreadfully slow, but  
nevertheless, recognise that their positions and  
salaries are much better under the Commissioners

I venture to assert there will be found among the staff, aye, and among the labouring and social classes too, a very large number who recognize the necessity for the improvement of the railway, and who are ready to co-operate with the Commissioners and the staff, and who are of the reputation of the great department of which they form a part. These bitterly and unreasonably ignorant persons, who are the disgrace of the position the Railway Department is made to present to the public by the fact of their existence, are the only persons who are not in Parliament. Hitherto the publicity of the case has been invoked almost entirely in the interest of malcontents of the service, and many on the side would be grateful for an opportunity to

**WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**

THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.  
—The Female Suffrage Bill being now  
passed, I think it only fair that the opponents  
of the bill should be accorded the same privilege as  
who are in favour of the measure have hitherto  
been granted in the public press of the colony. I  
therefore, crave a little of your valuable space  
to express my views on the subject. In the first  
place, to me that an attempt is being made  
to deprive the men of the colony of the right to  
make the measure by a coup, to gratify a clique  
of aggressive women who love to pose as man's  
equals, or rather superior. They would not, in my

are, as a single job, whether there would be fractures, and, as a song, whether there would be cracks in their sequence at political and on public platforms. But, of course, know that unless the whole sex is sacralized is impossible. That women, as women, do not it, goes without saying. I have never yet long life time, as a woman, as a woman, as I know on the contrary that the strongly opposed to it. That the bill will in all, pass the Assembly, I have little doubt. measure of such vital importance to our young should not be left to the decision of an effective measure such as the passage into law, measure is entrusted to the British measure is focused on the country it should be submitted to the people either as a test question at a

selection or by a referendum. When Mr. Hoos made his speech, he moved a resolution to the effect that it was rejected by your overwhelming majority. I think that you will all be very probably well aware that women suffrage is not acceptable to the great majority of the men, either men or women, and their purpose is to prevent it by a coup d'etat. It would be trespassing on such on your valuable space to go into all the details of the various arguments in favor of women suffrage to women; but, first and foremost, of women's sphere, she's man's helpmate, and not his rival. It is his companion and friend and not his opponent. There is another aspect of the case which must not be lost sight of. The altered conditions of the world have made it necessary for men to have at least two heads. As BARNARD

One of two must still obey ;  
Nancy, NANCY,  
Is it man or woman, say,  
My spouse, NANCY ?

friction and heart-burnings between husband  
and wife when opposed to each other at election  
are only part of the evils to be apprehended.  
again, how would we appear in the eyes of  
nations who are governed by men ? I pause  
briefly. It is to be hoped that, as in Victoria,  
the people of the Assembly will be thrown out  
of Council. Thanking you in subscription,  
I am, &c., E. H. RICHARDSON,

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